

## PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS

## The Senate Considers the River and Harbor and Army Appropriation Bills.

The House Devotes the Entire Day to Discussing the Mills Tariff Bill and Some Features of the Republican Platform.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—Mr. Davis, from the pension committee, reported back eight votes of pension bills, with recommendation that they be passed, notwithstanding the President's objections, and they were placed on the calendar. A motion to have the reports printed in the Record was agreed to; and a motion to print 5,000 copies of the reports was referred to the committee on printing. Mr. Faulkner stating that the Democratic members of the committee on pensions had not yet seen them.

Mr. Allison reported the army appropriation bill and indicated his intention to call it up this afternoon. The further consideration of the army treaty and of Mr. Morgan's resolution thereupon was postponed till Monday next.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the river and harbor appropriation bill, the question being on the amendment appropriating \$10,000 for Yaffin river, North Carolina.

The amendment was agreed to—yeas 37, nays 8.

At this point a statement was made by Mr. Allison, chairman of the appropriation committee, as to the present condition of the general appropriation bills. It would be necessary, he said, to pass a joint resolution, either today or Saturday, to extend for a certain number of days the appropriations for the current year.

The consideration of the river and harbor bill was proceeded with. Among the amendments reported and agreed to were the following: Striking out items for Yallahus river, Mississippi, \$2,000; for Cassidy bayou, Mississippi, \$2,500; for Amite river, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Bayou Bartholomew, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Bayou Terrebonne, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Red river, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Arkansas river, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Little river, Louisiana, \$2,500; for Calcasieu river and passes, Louisiana, \$10,000.

The amendment striking out the item of \$50,000 for Bayou la Fourche, La., was amended on motion of Mr. Gibson by inserting an item of \$25,000 for the same work.

Among the further amendments reported and agreed to were the following: Increasing the appropriation for Ouachita river, Arkansas, above Camden, from \$5,000 to \$9,000, and of the Ouachita river, Arkansas, from \$5,000 to \$9,000; striking out the item of \$5,000 for the South fork of Cumberland river, Kentucky; adding to the item of \$50,000 for the Ohio river \$25,000 for a drift gauge; Mr. Davis moved to increase the appropriation for St. Clair state ship canal, Michigan, from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

An important amendment as to the improvement of the Muskegon river, Michigan, was reported and agreed to. Mr. Edmunds had given up following the bill in detail after the vote on Yaffin river, North Carolina. He had given up the idea of making appropriations to the Senate—doubtless wiser and more patriotic than himself—but any item could be rejected that was supported, earnestly by a Senator from the localities for which appropriations were made that he did not want to arrive against his fellow State and against the judgment of his constituents. It was useless, and perhaps unjust, for any one Senator to make a judgment of the judgment of a majority of the Senate in regard to a bill which contained so large a percentage of things which ought not to be done.

Mr. Sherman explained the reasons for the surrender by the State of Ohio to the United States of the Muskegon river.

Mr. Vest reminded the Senators how he had resisted that project, and said Congress was now plucking the fruit of the tree which it had planted two years ago.

Mr. Reagan made some general remarks against the practice of making appropriations for unimproved streams, and particularly against the proposal in the Muskegon bill, of peddling out water-power to millers and others.

The amendment adding to the item of \$200,000 for the Illinois river, two clauses ordering surveys for a navigable waterway from Lockport to Lake Michigan, near Chicago, 160 feet wide and fourteen feet deep, and a canal from the Illinois river to the Mississippi river—the Hennepin canal—was passed over without action, on account of the absence of Mr. Callom.

Among the further amendments agreed to were the following: Increasing the appropriation for St. Croix river, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, from \$7,500 to \$10,000; reducing the appropriation for the Upper Mississippi from \$25,000 to \$15,000.

The river and harbor appropriation bill was laid aside after fifty-seven of its ninety-four pages had been disposed of.

Senators Sherman, Allison, Manderson, Colquhoun and Berry were designated as the committee on the petition to attend the Centennial Exposition at Cincinnati.

A conference report on the diplomatic and consular bill was presented by Mr. Hale and agreed to. Mr. Hale said the only point on which there was a failure to agree was the amendment reported from the committee on foreign relations, and adopted by the Senate, for a scientific commission to the Upper Congo basin. To that the House conference were very strongly opposed.

Senators Sherman, Morgan and Edmunds made statements to show the great importance of the proposition. Mr. Morgan suggesting the grand opportunity which the Upper Congo region offered for the African population of the United States, and Mr. Edmunds remarking that, under the policy of the House, the United States was standing dumb and idle, while its great commercial rivals were obtaining control of all the markets of the world.

On motion of Mr. Frye, the Senate still further insisted on the amendment.

The joint resolution extending for thirty days the appropriations for the current fiscal year, where the regular appropriation bills may not have passed before the 30th of June, was presented and referred to the committee on appropriations, after a discussion in which Mr. Pitts spoke of its necessity as being a sad and extraordinary thing.

Mr. Sherman spoke of the enormous expense and labor involved in the various departments of the government by such extensions.

Mr. Edmunds expressed the idea that this was as good a time as any to have the question decided, whether the Senate should be carried on by regular appropriations, and Mr. Hale spoke of it as usual at every long session of Congress.

The Senate then took up the army appropriation bill. One important amendment reported by the committee was the insertion of an item appropriating \$600,000 for cannons and carriages, projectiles, experimental and target guns, and testing torpedoes, and so forth, all materials to be of American manufacture. The amendment was agreed to, with an amendment offered by Mr. Hawley, adding for the purchase of sub-marine mines, and \$100,000 for the purchase of sub-marine controllable torpedoes and torpedo-boats.

A point of order was made against the amendment by Mr. Gorman—that it was not germane or relevant—but the point of order was overruled.

Without action on the bill or the amendment, the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

The Mills Bill and the Chicago Platform.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—In the House, on motion of Mr. Mills, of Texas, Mr. Blount, of Georgia, was elected as Speaker pro tem, during the temporary absence of Speaker Carlisle, and the Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of this action.

Mr. Crain, of Texas, made a strong effort to secure consideration of his bill for improvement of the mouth of the Brazos river, Texas, but objection from Mr. Howell, of Illinois, rendered his efforts unavailing.

The House then went into committee of the whole—Mr. Springer, of Illinois, in the chair—on the tariff bill.

Mr. Baker, of New York, moved to strike from the free list vegetables in their natural state or in salt or brine, not specially enumerated or provided for.

Mr. Brewer, of Michigan, in supporting the motion, referred to the strong competition which existed between the farmers of northern Michigan and those of the province of Ontario, and protested against the removal of the tariff which was now laid upon the vegetables imported from Canada.

Mr. T. H. Brown, of Virginia, said the question presented was whether the farmers of this country should be permitted to feed the people of the United States or whether the farmers of other countries should be allowed to do so.

committee on ways and means in opening the Northern markets to Canadian farmers. If that was good American policy, let the committee follow it; but along the Canadian border there were in the line of duty, who would give their opinion of this out-throat legislation when November came around.

Mr. Mills, of Texas, said that one of the objections to the clause was that it removed the duty on potatoes. This was a mistake, as potatoes were specifically provided for in another portion of the bill. The clause, he said, was in the interest of the consuming classes, and he queried whether the Republicans would be willing to reduce taxation.

Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, suggested that there was no real intention to remove the duty on potatoes. "Yes," replied Mr. Mills, "you want free whisky. You do not say in your platform that you want to reduce the duties on sugar and rice. The convention has overruled what you have contended for. Your party commands you to go for free whisky. We go with you to the country on that question. We demand a reduction on these things which enter into consumption, necessities, and demand that the tax shall remain on whisky as it is today."

Mr. J. D. Taylor, of Ohio, challenged the statement that the Republican party was in favor of free whisky. All voters of the Republican party were in favor of abolishing internal taxes because they believed them to be a burden on the people. That the Republican party was in favor of free whisky was absurd, and he repudiated the charge to that effect. Under the circumstances, a man who would coldly and deliberately make such a statement in the face of all internal taxes. That is what is understood by the country as being in favor of free whisky. Continuing, Mr. Mills said he was astonished at the tenderness of the men on this question. It was well known that the majority of the Republican party was opposed to the extreme position which the Republican party had taken at Chicago.

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rather than to interfere with the wages of labor and the diversity of industries of the country. Recurring again to the text of the bill, Mr. Mills presented committee amendments placing on the free list German looking-glasses, plates blown and silvered, and striking out pianos and prunes, which were adopted.

Mr. Hannan, of New Jersey, moved to strike out chisels, rakes, saws and dandelion root. The motion was defeated, as was one made by Mr. Vandever, of California, to strike out another portion of the bill. The clause, he said, was in the interest of the consuming classes, and he queried whether the Republicans would be willing to reduce taxation.

Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, suggested that there was no real intention to remove the duty on potatoes. "Yes," replied Mr. Mills, "you want free whisky. You do not say in your platform that you want to reduce the duties on sugar and rice. The convention has overruled what you have contended for. Your party commands you to go for free whisky. We go with you to the country on that question. We demand a reduction on these things which enter into consumption, necessities, and demand that the tax shall remain on whisky as it is today."

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